

RG104 Entry 1

Box 22

January 1842
General Correspondence

Documents are in rough chronological order but are not separated by Branch Mint facility or subject. Blank sheets and routine endorsements have been omitted. Annotations and addenda sheets have been digitized as they appear in the originals.

This series was assembled at a later date and its contents were likely edited or reorganized multiple times. Some items are out of order.

Items of Interest – E-1 Box 022 Jan 1842
see page 58.

Mint of the United States,
Jan. 31, 1842.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit to you the enclosed communication, from the Secretary of the Treasury, stating that you have been appointed, by the President of the United States, one of the Commissioners, to attend the next annual assay at the Mint.

I pray you to inform me whether, (as I sincerely hope,) it will suit your convenience to accept this appointment; and, in that event, I have respectfully to request your attendance, at the Mint, on Monday, the 14th proximo, at half past nine in the morning.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,
(sig^o) W. M. Patterson,

Director.

Cd/

Mr. John B. Gibson,	}
Respectable Thomas P. Cope, Esq.,	
Prof. J. C. Booth,	

Treasury Department
January 29. 1842.

Sir,

The President has designated three Commissioners to be appointed, in addition to the Judge and District Attorney of the United States for the Eastern District of Penn^a. and the Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, for the purposes mentioned in the 32^d Sect. of the Act of Congress of the 18th of January 1837, entitled "An Act supplementary to the" "Act entitled An Act establishing the Mint, and" "regulating the coins of the United States" and I herewith transmit their letters of appointment with a request that you will cause them to be delivered to the respective gentlemen.

I remain very Respy

W. Forward

Sec. of the Treas^y.

W. R. M. Patterson
Philad^a.

(Private)

Wm. W. L.
Jan. 25th, 1844.

Sir,
I send herewith an official request for the appointment of the additional Commissioners for our approaching Annual Essays, and I take the liberty of suggesting the names of the Hon. John Barnister Gilman, Thomas P. Cope, Esq., and Professor James C. Booth, ~~all of~~

Of Chief Justice Gilman I need not speak, and you know that Mr. Cope has long been looked upon as the head of the mercantile interest in Philadelphia. Mr. Booth is Professor of Chemistry applied to the Arts, in the Franklin Institute, a man of science and high character, ~~and well acquainted with the questions which are to be submitted to his judgment.~~

R. M. P.

To Hon. Walter Forward.

Mont. Md.
Jan. 25 / 42.

Sir,

When the Senate to the Annual Session is
in made at the Mont on the 14th of next
month, I have the honor respectfully to request
that you will ask the attention of the President
~~of the United States~~ to the appointment of the addi-
tional Commissioners provided for in the 32d
Section of the Act of Jan. 18th, 1837.

P. M. P.

To
Hon. Walter Forward, }
Sec. of Treasury. }

Treasury Department
Registry Office Jan. 22nd 1842

Sir

Under a Resolution of the Senate, the Secretary of the Treasury, is required to state "what amount of copper, and of gold and silver bullion and of coin for recoinage, has been each year been purchased from or deposited by individuals with the Mint and branch mints of the United States." From the tenor of the Resolution, it is presumed that the Statement should exhibit the information annually from the commencement of the Mint operations, and as from the loss of documents it cannot be made complete in this office, I have to request a Statement from records or respect the effort in Philad^a.

I am respectfully
your Ob^l. Serv^t

Wmth

Robert M. Patterson Esq
Director of the Mint
Philad^a

Mint of the United States.

Philadelphia, Jan. 20th, 1849.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th inst., and it gives me pleasure to present the explanation ^{which} ~~for~~ ^{which} you ~~wish~~ ^{seek}.

The appropriation asked and ~~given~~ granted for the incidental and contingent expenses of the Mint for 1849, was — "in addition to the unexpended balance of the appropriation for 1848, \$800." — It would have been more correct to say "in addition to the unexpended balance of former appropriations under the same head." — The enclosed statement will show that the real estimate of ~~expenditures~~ ~~under this~~ for the incidental and contingent expenses for 1849 was \$32,800. — ~~Other~~ ^{the} whole estimated expenses of the Mint for that ^{amounted to} ~~year~~ ^{year} being \$77,000, though you will see that, in consequence of balance on hand, profits of copper coinage, &c., the appropriation asked was but \$45,000.

If in making out the estimates for the present year, the ~~ex~~ whole expenses were again estimated at \$77,000; and the estimate for, of over seven having been reduced \$800, that for incidental expenses ~~was~~ ^{it} came to be raised

and did not attract my attention.

\$800. This was not necessary, & I shall be quite satisfied if the estimate real estimates of the two years be made the same viz \$32,800, which will bring the sum to \$19,800.
The ^{expenditures} estimates, under the same head, were, for 1835, \$59,657, - for 1836, \$57,100, - for 1837, \$38,100. Together with diminished expenses and profits on coffee drinking, Certain balances on hand, reduced them for 1835, '36, and '37, as well as there for 1841.

In reply to your inquiries respecting the Indian Medals, I beg leave, in the first place, to state, that the making of medals is no part of the ~~official~~^{official} duty of any officer of the Mint, and has never been so considered. The Secretaries of War and of the Navy have, indeed, generally, (but not always,) requested the Director of the Mint to ~~engage employees & pay~~^{solicit} ~~contracts~~ with the artists and workmen employed in preparing medals for them - which they were charged instructed to have prepared, and he has always taken charge from this cheerfully and without charge; but ~~the~~^{if the Emperor or} ~~Crown~~ ~~has always~~ ~~received compensation~~ was employed in any part of the execution of the work, he has always received compensation for this extra-official labor. When medals have been ordered by Congress, the Secretaries of War and of the Navy have, indeed, generally, (but not always,) asked the services of the

Director of the Mint, in engaging artists and others, and
superintending and paying for the work. These services
have always been rendered cheerfully, and without
charge. But if any strictly extra-official ~~work~~ work
was done by the Engraver or Printer, then individually
~~the~~ ^{always} received ^{for it} a moderate compensation ~~for it~~.

Mr. Pealer's estimate of the actual cost to him for executing the three dies for Indian medals, is \$590, and includes the modelling of the head in wax, ^{at Washington}, the moulding and the casting in iron at Boston, the lettering and attaching and finishing of the dies by an engraver, & the forging and turning of the dies. His own charge, for the work done by himself, is therefore \$210.

You speak of this service, proposed to be done by Mr. Peale, as either identical or irreconcilable with those required of him as Chief Coiner of the Mint. Identical they certainly are not; and they can only be irreconcilable, if they be allowed to interfere with ^{the exercise of} ~~the execution of~~ his official ~~duties~~ functions, and it is both his duty and mine to see that this do not occur.

You ask of what the item \$283.89 for
contingent expenses is composed. I cannot
answer this question. What I have presented
is an estimate and not a bill; and I believe

the experience of any one who has ever made
an estimate has proved to him the importance
of providing an item for unforeseen contingen-
cies. — In the present case, a die, after
all the labor has been spent upon it, may
break in hardening: ~~Mr. Ball~~ ~~they~~ ~~has~~ ~~offered~~
~~to make the metallic~~ ~~likeness~~ ~~of the President~~
~~is now for \$100: the Secretary of War has~~
~~performed other~~ the fine silver employed may
exceed the estimated weight: &c. In an exam-
ple, of the same kind, that has been committed
to my charge, has the actual cost equalled the
estimate, and I hope this would not be occur
now.

R. W. P.
D.

Mr. J. R. Ingersoll,
Com. Navy & Marine
Washington.

Jan. 20. 1842.

10/ Mr. J. R. Ingersoll,
Com. Navy & Marine.
Washington.

Unit of the United States,
Jan. 17, 1842.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you, herewith, a copy
of my annual report to the President, forwarded
by the present mail. I do not send you copies of
the tabular statements accompanying & forming part
of the report, as they will, no doubt, be laid before
you by the President himself.

Very respectfully,

R. M. P.
Sr.

To/

Hon. Walter Forward, }
Sec. of Treasury. }

H. R.
(Washington January 17. 1842.

My Dear Sir

The Committee of Ways and Means desire to be informed as to one or two particulars which are less familiar to the officers of the Department than to yourself. I take the liberty therefore to make the enquiry of you.

A very heavy estimate is sent in for "Incidental and contingent expenses, including the wastage of gold and silver, fuel, materials, stationery, water rent, and taxes \$20 600." Now the estimate of last year was only \$800. It is estimated desirable that we should have an explanation of this very heavy addition. Some of the particulars enumerated are necessarily unimportant such as stationery & water rent. Some of the others are of course proportionally large: and as they are not new in any thing except the amount, they naturally call for additional information.

Explanation.

Another point is connected with the proposed making of medals for the Indian chiefs and principal men. Your letter explanatory of this matter is not at this moment before me, but I can readily refer to the leading features.

1. The contingent expenses (\$283 - I think) are added to specific charges. What are they?
2. The officer who is in receipt of a salary for his services (Mr Peale) seems to ask compensation for either identical or incompatible services.
3. The payments contemplated for an artist in Boston and an artist in Washington are not mentioned again, in the items that go to make up the \$2500. - Are they included in the \$800 called for by Mr Peale, or in any other specific item?
4. Does the estimate which you have made contemplate any double salary, or extra allowance to an officer already employed in a different duty?

Very respectfully yrs

W Patterson.

J R Ingersoll

Min't of the United States.

Jan 11th, 1842.

Gentlemen

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th, inst.; and I am sorry to be obliged to inform you that it is not in our power to comply with the instructions given as to the payment for your last invoice of planchets, amounting to \$5017.50. — While in the midst of the operation of coining these planchets, the press broke down, and the injury done to it is so great, that it is not probable we shall be again able to coin cents for some weeks.

Under these circumstances, I have to beg that you will ~~divide your invoice as follows~~ and present your bill accordingly. that you will present us ^{with a receipt} a bill, on account, and I propose one of \$2495.24, to be paid as follows:

To be remitted to your order,	\$1030.24
" Everett T. Battelle,	770.
" A. T. S. Willits,	695.
	<u>\$2495.24</u>

There will then remain due to you \$2508.80, your whole account being made up as follows:

To be sent as above -	\$ 2495.24
Short weight,	5.56
Postage, -	8.00
Remaining due	<u>2508.80</u>
	\$ <u>5017.60</u>

Very respectfully,

Your faithful Servant,
H. M. P.

I

To
Messrs. Crocker, Bro. & Co.
Savannah
Mass.

+

You will of course take your own choice as to the proportions in which the proposed present payment is to be made. (Then which we have given suit the amounts in the list on hand).

Dear Sir,

I send you some specie
or a part of what I owe you which
is paid to receive although
some of it is American ^{coin}. The whole
sum to-day & to-morrow may be
about \$30000.

Yours truly
W. Lewis

Jan 3.

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director of the Mint

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director of the Mint

(Copy)

Mint of the United States

Treasury Office, January 3 - 1842.

Sir,

I forward you herewith, the quarterly
accounts of the Ordinary receipts and expenditures of the
Mint, for the last quart. of the year 1841; which I hope
you will find to be correct.

Very respectfully

Your Most Obedt. Servt.

(Signed)

J. R. Rood

Deputy Auditor General,

First Auditor of the Treasury.

Treasurer.

Mint of the United States,
Treasurer's Office, January 3^d 1842.

Sir,

I herewith forward you the
quarterly accounts of the operations of the
Mint for the quarter ending the 31st
day of December 1841, which I hope you
will find to be correct.

Very respectfully,
— Your obt. Serv.
(Signed)

Isaac Roach
Treas.

Wm. Miller, Esq.
W. Auditor of the Treasury

Winchester Vt.

January 2. 1842.

Dear Sir

I forwarded to you on Saturday last (sent to the U States Mint at Philadelphia a small box of ore for examination). Metals which have the appearance of Copper Silver & Gold have been drawn from it and these metals have been pronounced by Silversmiths to be what they appear to be. The mine is a very extensive one and I should be glad to have the ore particularly examined and the proportions of each of the various metals it may contain specified.

As early as practicable I should be pleased to hear from you. Recd your letter to me at this place care of Rev. A. Savinier Deyrieu.

Respectfully
John Huff.

In my first letter I mentioned only silver but by subsequent examination I found Copper & gold I supposed. That letter requested an answer to be directed to Frederick W. Maurer to either of which will do

Am. Pattern Co.
New York
Phil.

New York 1st Jan 1842

We this day forward by the bearer
Mr Chapman Camacho & Co. Gold Dust &
Bullion - In it is a Broken Bar which you
will much oblige us by assaying separate
Very respectfully yours
Bogler & Kunkin

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia.
January 8th, 1842.

Dear Sir,

I beg permission to present to you,
on this ~~anniversary~~ anniversary, a copy,
in bronze, of the medal voted to you by
Congress in evidence of the gratitude of your
country, for the glorious victory achieved un-
der your guidance, twenty seven years ago.

Your grateful friend,
and faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson.

To
General Andrew Jackson.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Jan. 24th, 1842.

Sir,

It will give me great pleasure to comply with the request made in your note of the 21st, but I have to regret that I cannot do so for two or three days, in consequence of some alterations which I had ordered in ~~the~~^{these} arrangements of the Fall of Bridge, and on which the printer is now engaged.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
with great respect,

Your faithful servant,

D. M. Patterson.

To
Hon^{ble} Dan Webster.

Albion N. S.

Jan. 27th, 1842.

Sir,

I have now the pleasure of complying with ^{the} request made in your note of the 21st inst., by sending you a number of copies of the Tabular Statement of the Congress presented at this point.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. M. P.

To
Hon. Daniel Webster,
Secretary of State.

Minist. of the United States.

Feb. 25th, 1842.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd inst., and am happy to find that the Committee on Finance have their attention directed to the erroneous valuation given to foreign gold coins by the existing laws.

You make inquiry as to the gold coins of Peru, Chili, &c., and ask whether I think it desirable that they should be made current in the United States, at the rates ascertained by our assays. I answer that in the negative; first, because they are by no means abundant in this country; secondly, because they fluctuate in value, - the assays at different times not agreeing; thirdly, because their commercial value is much above their intrinsic value, so that any legislation, such as that in question, would be undeniably injurious. I deem it quite useless also to ~~include~~ legislate with regard to the gold coins of Portugal and Brazil, which are rarely met with among us, and which command in the market a higher price than a just law could give them. I would therefore respectfully recommend that the act which you propose with regard to foreign gold coins should be confined to those of Great Britain and France.

One should always speak with caution as to the present decisions of the State of Spanish America,

but I believe that ~~Columbia~~ ^{distinct} Columbia that was formerly
Columbia is now divided into three ^{distinct} States,
— Venezuela, New Granada, and Ecuador. The
Units of Bogota and Popoyan are found in New
Granada, but ~~I think that there is~~ ^{I doubt} ~~no~~ ^{of these units,} ~~do not know~~
that there has been any coinage, in the latter, since
1836, when they were found so inferior. The gold coin
of Quito, in Ecuador, are also defective as to fineness.

As you propose ~~summed~~ ^{summed} to introduce new legisla-
tion as to foreign gold coin, I would suggest the propri-
ety of extending the act so as to include all foreign
silver coin which it is desirable to legalize as currency
in the United States. At present the only legal
provisions in force on this subject, are the 2d Act
of the act of Feb. 9, 1793, and the act of Jun. 20th
1834. The first of these makes the Spanish milled
dollar and its parts legal tenders at their nominal
values. The second ~~extends~~ includes the dollars of
Mexico, Peru, Chili, and Central America, and the
French five-franc piece.

What was formerly called the Spanish milled dollar
was almost exclusively a coinage of Spanish America,
~~and it had its name~~ ^{having lost its former designation} It is now known as the peso
dollar, because all dollars and indeed ^{many} all coins are now
milled, as have their edges raised and ^{of some kind} ~~impressed~~ ^{marked upon them.}
~~machined~~ — I believe that there has been no coinage
of these dollars for twenty years. — The dollars of
Chili and Central America are very rarely met with,

and it would seem as if it were unnecessary to legislate
with regard to them. Indeed, the Spanish American
~~new found in the United States,~~
~~and silver coinage~~ ^{new found in the United States,} may be considered as ~~can~~ ^{is} practically
limited to the old pillar dollar, and the dollars of
Mexico, Peru, and Bolivia, and the parts of ~~these~~
coins. These parts of dollars, (halves, quarters, eighths,
and sixteenths,) ought not, I think, to be admitted
as a legal currency in the United States. The frac-
tions of the old Spanish American Coinage, made
current by the act of 1793, are so near as to be
nearly all under weight, and these are the only
small foreign coin now a legal tender in this
country. Many of the other Spanish American small
coins are not only light, but debased. There
have been recently large issues of halves and
quarters in Peru and Bolivia, worth but 36 and
18 cents respectively.

I hope you will excuse me for the liberty
I take of sending you the enclosed project of
such a law as I think it would be desirable
to adopt with regard to the currency of foreign
coins, if it be still thought too early to throw
all foreign gold out ^{of} circulation as a legal tender.

R. M. P.

To / Mr. Geo. Evans,
Chairman Comm. on Finance,
U. S. Senate.

Fact for a reply to Mr. Evans.

The act of Apr. 10, 1806, legalizing the coins of the "possessions of Spain in America" is presumed to extend to those countries, as independent nations; consequently, Peru, Chili &c. are included.

It is not desirable to legalize, or make current, their coins, because, 1. The doubloons are not abundant in this country - 2. They vacillate in value, 3. Their commercial value is largely above the intrinsic, almost constantly, which of itself w^d. render any legislation nugatory. And 4. As to the silver, they are uncut in value, and subject to sudden & gross debasements. ~~no doubt that from time to time we are making gross debasements;~~ the latest dollar from New Granada is worth no more than 65 cents; & there have recently been large issues of halves and quarters in Peru & Bolivia, worth 36 and 18 cents, respectively. The dollars of the Argentine Republic vary from 95 to 105 cents.

We have not rec^d. any "Popayan" doubloons, since New Grenada was established as a distinct nation, tho' it belongs to that part of former Colombia, as does "Bogota," where better doubloons were coined.

The gold coins of Quito, in Ecuador, (formerly a state of Colombia) are also inferior in fineness, as far as tried.

No Spanish milled dollar has been struck for
about 20 years. — Nor an American coin

The great body of Sp. milled dollar. was coined in
America; only few being struck in Spain proper, of
no importance in commerce. The Sp. Amer. dollar
ceased to be coined about 20 years ago; and on an
average, they are not now worth more than 99½
cents; the parts are still more advanced (by near) in
proportion.

An Act regulating the currency of foreign gold and silver coins in the United States.

~~That~~ Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the passage of this act, the following foreign gold coins shall pass current as money within the United States, and be receivable, by weight, for the payment of all debts and demands, at the rates following; that is to say, — the gold coins of Great Britain, of not less than nine hundred and fifteen and a half thousandths in fineness, at ninety four cents and six tenths of a cent per penny weight; and the gold coins of France, of not less than eight hundred and ninety nine thousandths in fineness, at ninety two cents and nine tenths of a cent per penny weight.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That from and after the passage of this act, the following foreign silver coins shall pass current as money within the United States, and be receivable, by tale, for the payment of all debts and demands, at the rates following: that is to say, — the Spanish pillar dollars, and the dollars of Mexico, Peru, and Bolivia, of not less than eight hundred and ninety seven thousandths in fineness, and four hundred and fifteen grains in weight, at one hundred cents each; and the five-franc pieces of France,

of not less than nine hundred thousandths in fineness,
and three hundred and eighty four grains in weight, at
ninety three cents each.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, that it shall be the
duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to cause assays
of the coins made current by this act, to be had at
the mint of the United States, at least once in every
year, and to make report of the result thereof to Con-
gress.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, that all acts
and parts of acts, ~~making foreign~~ heretofore passed,
making foreign coins current in the United States, be
and the same are hereby repealed.

P.S. Ed. Webb. not having time atk to mail
the my letter last evening, I take advantage of the
delay to add some explanations with ~~the~~ regard
to the emission of the dollar of Chile and Central
America, and the restamped dollar of Brazil, from
the draft of a bill which I have sent to you.

We have authentic returns of the Coinage of Chile,
from which it appears that from 1826-1830, the coinage
of silver averaged \$353,000 annually; and that, since
this period up to 1835 inclusive the average has been
but \$39,000. It is not surprising therefore that
the Chilean dollar should now be so rarely met with
in the United States. — From Central America we
have no returns, but we know the coinage of silver
to be very trifling. It is not without difficulty that we
find specimens for assay. —

It does not appear that dollars are any longer
restamped in Brazil. The last date of such a
dollar that we have met with is 1826. The present
currency of Brazil is almost exclusively Copper & Paper.
R. M. P.

Department of War

Washington Feb. 28th 42.

Sir,

It is the impression of the Department, that at the period of its last communication with you, the only medals yet wanting to complete the collection upon which you are engaged, were, that Commemorative of the Capture of André, and those awarded to Major De Henry and Cap. Stewart.

Will you please to inform the Department whether this impression is correct and, if so, whether the efforts you kindly proffered have since resulted in the procurement of all or any of said medals. It is believed that a copy of the André medal is in the collection

Wm. Patterson

Philadelphia

W

Mr. Webster and if you have not obtained one,
measures will be taken to obtain and trans-
mit it. Kosciusko's will be forwarded in
a few days.

Respect
Yours, &c. L. V.

J. C. Spencer

P.S. I have just learned that the Medal to
Genl. Lee on the occasion of his attack at Pau-
lus-Book was never struck, owing to an acci-
dental fracture of the die, before it could be
effected; but a memorial is now before Con-
gress praying its restoration.

Bank of the State of N. Carolina
18th February 1842

Dear Mr. Patterson
Director of the U. S. Mint Philad.

Sir:

At the request
of B. G. Smith Esq, I enclose you my check on Farmers &
Merchants Bank Philadelphia for One Hundred & Fifty six Dollars
allowing the receipt of which please acknowledge to him

Very respectfully
Wm. M. Mott
C. D. Dwyer

Treasury of the United States,

16 Feb'y — 1842.

Sir:

Enclosed you will receive 107 ——— Treasury Notes
made payable to your order, amounting to \$7,700 — ; also a
receipt, in detail, therefor, which you will please to sign and return
to this office, by return of mail, the same being necessary as a voucher
for the payment of the Warrant upon which they were issued.

I am, respectfully,

Sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM SELDEN,
Treasurer of the United States.

Isaac Roach Esqr

(Copy)

Mint of the United States

Treasurer's Office, February 19. 1842

Sir,

I have received your letter of 16th February 1842,
together with the following Treasury Notes, payable to my order, viz,

No. 2005 to No. 2051 - 47 of \$ 100. each = \$ 4.700

No. 2681 to No. 2690. 60 of 50. each = 3.000

69 - 5 Ems - 107 amounting to - \$ 11.700

I have issued a Treasury Warrant No. 349 - in my favor for that amount

I am Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) B. R. Rood

Treasurer.

William Selles, Esq.

Treasurer of the United States.

Minut U. S.

Feb. 15, 1842.

Sir,

The meeting of the Commissioners, to attend to the Annual Assay at the Mint, was held yesterday, and I have the honor to send you herewith a copy of the Minutes of their proceedings.

A letter was received by me, in the morning, from Judge Porter, stating his regret that the condition of his family and of his business put it out of his power to be present.

The Dist. Attorney, Mr. Meredith, was present at the beginning of the meeting, but was unable to remain. He gave his official opinion, however, that the three remaining Commissioners wd make a legal quorum of the Board, as the office of Dist. Judge being vacant, could not be considered in estimating the whole number of Commissioners.

R. M. P.

Director.

To

Mr. Walter Forward,
Sec. of Treasury.

Mint of the U. S.

Feb. 12. 1842.

Gentlemen,

I send enclosed a receipt for your
deposits of gold dust, delivered by Mess.
Haunden & Co., this morning. On their returning
this receipt, with your endorsement, the
amount, in coins, will be paid on or after
Wednesday next.

R. M. P.

Director.

To/

Mess. Jackson & Co.,

No. 43. Broad St.

New York.

The United States Mint in Philadelphia

Mr. Warron & Co will deliver one parcel
containing gold dust - the value of which we beg to have
returned there in American Gold Coin when ascer-
tained.

New York 11 Feb 1842

J. A. Morrison & Co -
43 Broadway

Mint of the United States,
Feb. 11, 1842.

Sir,

I take the liberty of reminding you that
the Annual Assay at the Mint, for which you
are a Commissioner, will commence on Monday
morning next, at 9½ o'clock.

Very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

W¹
Thos. P. Cope Esq., Philad. }
Jas. M. Porter, Esq., Easton. }
Prof. Am. C. Booth, Philad. }

P.S. As your attendance will probably be re-
quired ~~quite~~ for some hours, I beg to mention that
a lunch will be prepared which may perhaps
take the place of a dinner.

Not sent to Judge Porter.

Mint of the United States.

February 10th, 1842.

Sir,

In compliance with ~~the~~^{the} provisions of the acts of Congress of Apr. 10, 1806, and of June 25th and June 28th 1834, I have the honor to submit to you the following report of the fineness, and of the value by weight, of certain gold and silver coins specified in these acts.

I have repeatedly called ~~and~~^{asked} attention to the ~~circumstance~~^{fact} that the act of June 28th 1834, gave ~~an over~~^{too high a} valuation to foreign gold coins. ~~The following comparative statement will present this~~^{To exhibit} fact in a clear point of view, I ~~present~~^{present} the following comparison of the value, ~~per penny-weight~~^{of these coins}, as established by the act in question, and as shown by assays at the Mint.

Gold coins of	Value by Law	Value by Assay.
Great Britain — —	94.80 cents	94.62 cents
Portugal — — —	94.80 "	94.46 "
Brazil — — —	94.80 "	94.46 "
France — — —	93.12 "	92.92 "
Spain — — —	89.92 "	89.57 "
Mexico — — —	89.92 "	89.57 "
Colombia (Bogota) —	89.92 "	89.92 "
" (Popoyan) —	"	88.68 "

This general over-valuation of foreign gold coins has its origin in the circumstances. ^{The first is}

that the coins in question were assumed to ^{reach} their
legal standard, — an assumption not confirmed
by our assays. Thus, for example, the ^{figures} standard
of the coins of Great Britain, Portugal, and
Brazil, ^{is} estimated at 22 caute, (corresponding
to 916 ²/₃ thousandths; whereas our assays show the
first to be but 915 and the two last but 914
thousandths. A second ^{cause} ~~source~~ of this variation
arises ^{originates} from the fact, that, by the law
of Jan. 18, 1837, the standard of our ~~own~~ gold
coins was raised from 899.225 thou., to 900,
while their weight remained ^{unaltered} ~~unchanged~~; so that
~~the value of American gold for foreign use was~~
~~raised from~~ ~~to~~

so that ^{there is} more pure gold in the same nominal value of
our ^{gold} coins now, than there was when the act was ^{adopted} ~~passed~~
which regulates the price at which foreign coins shall pass
current. So that pure gold, ^{in our coins is} ~~was~~ held at a somewhat
^{less} ~~greater~~ nominal value ~~than~~ ^{than} ~~before~~ ^{before} the change
of standard than ~~since~~ it was before. A corresponding
~~change~~ ^{legal} diminution was, of course, called for in the value
given to the pure gold in foreign coins, but it has
not yet been made.

The act of Jan 28th 1834 is therefore erroneous and
impolitic, because it stamps a greater value upon for-
eign gold coins than upon our own, and thus misleads
the public, and prevents receiving ~~at our mints~~; — it
~~is~~ ^{is} unnecessary, because the attitude of the United

States are abundantly sufficient for all the gold
coinage required for circulation; and it is inconvenient,
because the foreign coins which it makes a legal tender
do not correspond in value and denomination with
our money of account. — I would, ^{therefore} ~~by law~~, most
respectfully recommend that the act in question
be repealed.

The act of Jan 28th, 1834, making Spanish-
American dollars a legal ~~tender~~ currency at 100 cents
each, and French five-franc pieces at 95 cents
each, does not lead to any injustice that I am
aware of.

W. M. P.
Hon. Walter Forward,
Sec. of Treasury;

Report of the fineness, and value by weight, of certain gold and silver coins, specified in the Act of Congress of Apr. 10, 1806, and June 25 & 28, 1834.

Gold Coins.		Fineness in thousandths.	Value per Cent.
Great Britain, Sovereign		915.5	911.42
France, pieces of 40 and 20 francs		899	92.92
Spain, Doubloons & parts		866	89.51
Mexico, Do.		866	89.51
Peru, Do.		868	89.71
Chili, Do.		868	89.71
Colombia, Doubloons of Bogota		870	89.92
Do. Do. of Popoyan		858	88.68
New Grenada, Doubloons of 1837-'38		871	90.02
Bolivia, Do.		870	89.92
Central America, Do.		830	85.77
La Plata, Do.		815	84.24
Portugal, Johannes & half		868	89.71
Do., Crown of 500 reis & half since 1838		914	94.46
Brazil, Piece of 6,400 reis of 1838		914	94.46
Silver Coins		Fineness in thousandths.	Value per Cent.
Spain, Dollar of the penitales		900	116.36
Do. Dollar - dollar of Spanish America		898	116.10
France, Crown (ceased to be coined in 1793)		909	117.53
Do. Five-franc piece		900	116.36
Mexico, Average of various Mints, & in the proportion actually presented here,		897	115.97
Peru & North & South Peru, Dollar		901	116.47
Chili, Dollar		906	117.13
Central America, Dollar		896	115.84
Brazil, re-stamped dollar of 960 reis.		898	116.10
Unit of the U. States, Feb. 11, 1842.			

Caston Pa Feb 11. 1842

Dear Sir

I find it will be impossible for me to be in the City on the 14th Instant to join the Com^{tee} in the superintendence of the Asseg.

I regret this exceedingly, but I find it impossible to come to the City at the time appointed and I only regret that I had not the certification of my appointment in time to enable the President to supply my place. If any thing should prevent a quorum from attending, I think I would be able to attend on the 16th Inst.

Truly Yours
J. Porter

J. M. Patterson

Mint of the United States.

We understand that the President following gentlemen have been appointed, by the President ^{of the United States,} as Commissioners to attend the Annual Assay ~~to be~~ at the Mint, on Monday next.

Thomas P. Cope, of Philadelphia

James M. Porter, of Easton.

James C. Booth, of Philadelphia.

The Commissioner, ex officio, ^{at Phila.}

The Judge of the U. S. District Court - Vacant.

The Attorney ^{for the same} ~~of the same~~ ^{District} - Wm. M. Meredith, Esq.

The Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, Jonathan Roberts, Esq.

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To /
For R. Chandler Esq., U. S. Gazette.
For C. Neall, Esq., Pennsylvanian. with
a request to insert as an editorial.

Mont U. S. Feb. 9th / 42.

Sir,

In answer to your letter of the 7th, I have to state, that if your proposed deposits of South American Silver were now here, the amount could be returned to you in a few days in small coins, as we have either paid or provided for all existing deposits of this character. But ~~I am not in a position to~~ supplies of coin cannot be disposed by a promised deposit, as ~~even~~ the law requires that "the payments shall be made, if demanded, in the order in which the bullion shall have been brought to the mint, giving priority according to priority of deposit only."

P. M. S.

To

(D. Sprigg, Esq.
Cash. Merchants Bank,
Baltimore.

Min't of the United States.

Philadelphia, Feb. 8th, 1849.

~~The accompanying report of the Comm. on the proposed bill for the year 1849, printed by the Committee of Ways & Means, has just come into my hands, and I beg leave to ask your attention to two ~~other~~ items, regarding the ellipsis, which have caused me some embarrassment.~~
The report, ~~the~~ ^{accompanying} ~~report of the Comm. on the proposed bill for the year 1849, printed by the Committee of Ways & Means, has just come into my hands, and I beg leave to ask your attention to two other items, regarding the ellipsis, which have caused me some embarrassment.~~

The first, ~~(at page 29)~~ is "No. 112. For workmen in said office, [U. S. Min't at Philadelphia,] (printed estimates p. 13,) — \$20,000." Now the sum reported in the printed estimates is \$24,000, and less will not be sufficient in the present organization of the ellipsis. I presume, therefore, that the sum set down in the bill is a typographical error.

The second item to which I desire to call your attention, regards the same subject of appropriation in the New Orleans ellipsis. It is "No. 133. For workmen in said office, (printed estimates, p. 14,) \$2,000." — (The estimate as presented and printed was \$22,000; and reason was given to me to believe that a less amount would not be sufficient, ~~in the present~~ All wages at New Orleans are very high.

You will oblige me very much, if you will give me an explanation of these items.

Wm. Hillard Fillmore,
Ch. Com. Ways & Means

A. M. Patterson,
Director.

See Estimates sent to Sec. of War. Apr. 10, 41. In this paper, there
grounds of the Admiral of the Phil. Minist re.

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Wages of workmen paid in 1841	
First Quarter	\$ 6244.80
Second Quarter	6157.74
Third Quarter	6095.20
Fourth Quarter	5968.50
	<hr/> 24,466.24
Appropriation	<hr/> 24,000.00
Excess of expenditure	\$ 466.24

It is true that a part of this appropriation was
 retained undrawn when the wages were paid, and
 the reason is that funds from other appropriations
 were used; an irregularity which it is almost
 impossible to avoid, ^{where there is in fact but one fund}
~~and drawing \$24,000, it must be applied to another kind of appropriation~~
~~the amount which had been actually received from the~~
~~the appropriation for wages for 1841, even~~
~~paid at the end of the year, although part of it~~
~~was undrawn~~

It is a fact, then, that there was no available
 balance for to pay for wages after the close of the year
 1841; and, if the Mint is to continue on its pre-
 sent footing a less amount than \$24,000 will not
 be sufficient for the present year.

The balance which actually remained available,
 at the close of the past year, has been deducted
 from the estimate for incidental & contingent expenses;
 the specific ^{expenditures} ~~appropriations~~ for salaries and wages
 being estimated at their full amount.

I have no doubt that some explanation of
 the same kind can be given for the large amount
 undrawn by the other three ~~quarters~~ under the same
 head of wages; but I have not the means, at
 present, of giving it. I am quite confident,
 however, that their real expenditures ~~for~~ ^{for the}
 the year cannot have fallen so much, if at all, short
 of their appropriations made. I have written
 to call their attention to the matter.

Yours very respectfully,
 D. M. Patterson,
 Director.

To
 Messrs. Millard Tilton,
 Chairman Com. Ways & Means.

* I may remark here in the same while I would re-
 mark that as the estimate for wages was \$22,000, a
 deduction of \$12,000 would ^{still leave} ~~reduce the amount to~~
 \$10,000, while I find that your Committee report
 but \$2,000.

Caston Pth Feb 9. 1842

My dear Sir

Yours of the 7th Inst reached me last Evening. On my return home upon the evening of the 7th Inst I found on my table the notification of the Secretary of the Treasury dated the 4th Instant that Thos Pope, Professor of Law & myself had been designated by the President, in conjunction with the Judge of the Dist. Court for the Eastern District of Penna. The Atty of that District and the Collector of the Ports, to act as Commissioners under the 32^d Section of the act of 18th Jan'y 1837.

It will afford me great pleasure to meet these gentlemen named on Monday next if in my power, but One of my Children is very unwell - My wife much worn down by the care of nursing & attending upon him, and the weight and amount of my professional labours such that I fear I may be prevented from so doing - A Circumstance which I should much regret. Should I be unable to come I will advise you by Saturday's mail

Truly Yours

J. M. Porter

J. M. Patterson

✓
Merchant Bank

Palt Feb 7 1843

Q. M. Patterson Esq
Director of the Mint

Phil^a

Pa

Can we get from the
Mint six thousand dollars of silver, half
dime, equal amount, for the like amount
of South American silver? If yes, can we
send on the silver when the change shall
be ready?

Very respectfully

W. B. E. A.

J. H. G. (Cay)

Mint of the U. S.

Feb. 7. 1842.

Dear Sir,

By a letter received this morning from the Sec. of Treasury, I am happy to learn that the President has appointed you one of the Commissioners to attend the annual assay at the Mint on Monday next. I sincerely hope that it will be in your power to accept this appointment; and, in that case, I shall beg your attendance here at 1/2 past 9 o'clock in the morning. The duties of the Commission can ^{be} readily performed in one day.

Very respectfully
& faithfully yours

R. M. P.

[Signature]

Am. Jas. M. Porter.

Treasury Department
February 4. 1842.

Sir,

The Hon: Judge Gibson having declined to serve as one of the Commissioners to superintend the assay of Coins to take place at the Mint on the 14th instant, the President has authorised the appointment of James M. Porter of Easton, in his stead. A Letter of appointment has, this day, been sent to Judge Porter.

Very Respectfully
Wm. A. Wood

Sec. of the Treasury.

D. R. M. Patterson
Phileas?

Mint of the U. S.

Feb. 11, 1842

Sir,

I have the honor to request that you will issue your warrant in favor of the Treasurer of the Mint for seven thousand ~~thousand~~ seven hundred dollars, (\$7,700,) being the balance undrawn, of the appropriation of 1841, to pay wages of Workmen.

Should it be thought necessary to pay this requisition, or any part of it, in Treasury notes, I have to beg that as large a proportion as possible may be sent in small notes. The wages are paid monthly; and, with very few exceptions, do not amount to \$50 for any hand.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

To, Hon. Walter Forward, }
Sec. of Treasury. }

Min^{tr} of the United States,
Oct. 3^d 1842.

Gentlemen,
I send enclosed a memorandum of the result of your deposits made on the 21st ult., and have to inform you that the coins (dimes) are ready for delivery.

Very respectfully,
your faithful serv^t,
R. M. P.

Director.

To,
Messrs. J. & J. Stone, }
New York.

2 Feb 1842

Dear Sir

I regret to say that the constitution of Pennsylvania
declaring an appointment of trust under the United States
to be incompatible with the office of Judge under the State;
and this consideration has compelled me to signify to the
Secretary of the Treasury my refusal of the appointment with
which the President has been pleased to honour me. I
need not say with what pleasure I should, had I been per-
mitted, have performed its duties.

Very truly Dear Sir

John W. Gibson

Doctor R. M. Patterson

Director of the mint.

New York Feb 2 1842

Ed. Morgan Esq.

It will you be good enough to inform
us as near as you can when our shares will be ready
for delivery. we have not received any statement from
you since meeting yours &c

J. S. Stodd

Min't of the United States.

Feb. 21, 1842.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your ^{favor} letter of the 29th ult., transmitting letters of appointment to the gentlemen designated as the Extra-Commissioners to attend the Annual Assay at the mint on the 14th inst. I have the pleasure to state that Mr. Cope and Prof. Booth have accepted their appointments; but unfortunately Chief Justice Gibson finds himself prevented from doing so, by a provision of the Constitution of Pennsylvania which declares an appointment of trust under the United States incompatible with the office of Judge under the State.

^{the Chief Justice.} Mr. ~~Gibson~~ ^{informs me} that he has informed you of the impossibility of his accepting the place of Assay Commissioner. I hope that some other individual may have been ^{appointed} ~~presented~~ by the President; but if no name has ^{suggested} ~~suggested~~ itself, I will take the liberty of ^{suggesting} ~~presenting~~ that of Charles Chauncy, Esq.

R. M. P.

(J)
Hon. Walter Forward.

Philad. July 1. 1842

The undersigned respectfully acknowledges the receipt of the Note of R. M. Patterson Esq. of the 31st ult. with the accompanying document from the President of the United States, appointing the undersigned one of the Commissioners to attend the next annual assay at the Mint.

While the undersigned with pleasure accepts the appointment, he cautions but feels his want of experience, satisfactorily to fulfill the duty assigned him. He will however appear at the Mint on the appointed day & hour.

He begs R. M. Patterson to be assured of the consideration with which he is his

Friend

Thos. P. Cope

R. M. Patterson Esq.

Director of the Mint

Items of Interest – E-1 Box 022 Jan 1842

PDF page #

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11-12	Congress inquiry about contingent expenses; Indian medals
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18-19	Wants assay of metal samples
20	Jackson medal transmittal
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23-26	Incorrect values of foreign coins in current law
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45-47	Ways and Means committee report comments regarding appropriation estimates
52	Funds to pay workmen wanted in small notes – less than \$50
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54	PA judge cannot serve on Assay Commission due to state law
56-57	Status of Assay Commissioner appointments Feb 2, 1842